



PRESS RELEASE
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FALSE STATEMENTS DURING FIREARMS PURCHASES
LEAD TO FEDERAL PRISON SENTENCES

ORLANDO - United States District Court Judge G. Kendall Sharp today sentenced two men to federal prison in connection with false statements that they made while purchasing firearms from Central Florida area gun dealers. SERAFIN SALTARES, 24, of Orlando, and LUIS SIERRA, 21, of Puerto Rico, were charged in a six-count indictment with knowingly providing false information to a federally licensed firearms dealer. Saltares will serve 14 months in federal prison, 3 years on supervised release, and pay a \$3000 fine and a \$400 special assessment for his part in the transactions. His co-defendant, Sierra, likewise will serve 12 months in prison, 3 years on supervised release and pay a \$200 special assessment.

According to the facts established at their respective plea hearings, Saltares and Sierra attempted to purchase a total of 33 assorted rifles between October 17, 2002 and January 24, 2003. The weapons included 30 Romanian SAR-1 rifles, two Century Arms AK-47 rifles and an Olympic Arms AR-15 rifle. During the transactions, both Saltares and Sierra listed false addresses on a federally mandated document known as a firearms

transaction record. Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) subsequently confirmed that neither individual lived at the addresses listed on the paperwork.

The case is another successful prosecution undertaken as a part of the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Paul Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials and calling our effort "Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence!" The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.

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